



Town of Rowe  
**Board of Selectmen** Minutes  
Tuesday, September 29, 2020 –4:00 p.m.  
VIA TELECONFERENCE

*This meeting will be held via video conference, consistent with Gov. Baker's temporary modifications to Open Meeting Law due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**Board of Selectmen:** Chair Charles Sokol, Selectman Joanne Semanie  
**Absent:** Selectman Ed Silva  
**Administrative Staff:** Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary, Paul McLatchy III, Administrative Assistant  
**Other Attendees:** Board of Health Chair Margaret Rice  
**Audience of Citizens:** Ben Werner, Director of Rowe Camp and Conference Center

**Call to Order:** Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 4:15 P.M., a quorum of the board present via remote participation.

**MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:**

**Chair Sokol:**                    **yes**

**Silva:**                                **absent**

**Vice-Chair Semanie:**        **yes**

**Background:** This group of individuals (self-titled "Covid Group") has been meeting weekly for the past few months to listen to the state Covid-19 briefings and discuss ongoing matters in town related to the pandemic. As Board of Health Clerk Joanne Semanie was elected last Saturday to the Board of Selectmen, there is now a quorum of the board present during these weekly meetings, and as such, must take place in open session.

**Covid Discussion:** The following points/topics were addressed during discussion:

Board of Health Chair Maggie Rice provided the following updates:

- Chair Rice reported 300 people had been to the Charlemont Flu Clinic and 40 were from Rowe. She emphasized that the next clinic in Heath needs to be announced.
- Chair Rice said that it is important to stress that citizens receive their flu shots this year.
- There has been one applicant for the Nurse position
- There was discussion about having a clip board at Town Hall to list who has been in the building to assist in the contact tracing.

The following message was prepared for the Public Notification System:

"The following is the weekly message regarding the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. This message includes a reminder regarding the second seasonal flu vaccination clinic this weekend and the required paperwork to receive a vaccination, information regarding mask requirements at the transfer station, and an update regarding the current community-level risk of COVID-19 in Rowe.

The time of the second and final flu clinic will be from 9 AM to 11 AM this coming Saturday, October 3rd. As a reminder, this will be a walk-through clinic held at the old Heath Elementary School. The vaccinations provided at this clinic will be at no cost to residents of Rowe, although please bring your insurance information as the cost of the vaccination will be reimbursed by your insurer to the Town of Rowe.

To receive a vaccination at this flu clinic, certain routine paperwork must be filled out. This paperwork is available at the town hall, the transfer station, and on the town website at [Rowe-MA.gov](https://rowe-ma.gov), specifically in the "Latest News" section, which can be found on the left side of the main page just below the featured photos.

Filling the paperwork out ahead of time will speed the vaccination process up, and anyone who has the paperwork completed upon arrival will be given precedence over those who arrive at the flu clinic without the paperwork completed.

Although much of our attention is currently dedicated to the Coronavirus, it is important to remember that the seasonal flu can lead to serious complications, including hospitalization. Given that hospitalization may both increase exposure to the Coronavirus, and may deplete already strapped hospital resources, it is in the interest of each of us individually and collectively to do what we can to avoid the seasonal flu through vaccination.

Please remember that masks or cloth face coverings are required while at the Transfer Station. Please wear a mask and follow any additional instructions provided by the transfer station attendant while on site, as these guidelines are being implemented for everyone's health and safety.

The State of Massachusetts is maintaining data for community-level COVID-19 risk. Currently, the Town of Rowe is rated as a low-risk community due to our low incidence of infection and transmission. This is a product of our collective efforts to maintain social distancing and to wear masks while in public. As a reminder, it is these cloth face coverings, along with diligent hand washing and maintaining 6-foot distancing, that have allowed us to reduce the incidence of Coronavirus transmission as much as we have. Relaxing these practices may lead to greater virus transmission locally.

The Rowe Coronavirus task force continues to meet regularly and is staying informed about the current state of the Coronavirus pandemic and the effect of the pandemic on the Town of Rowe.

We will continue to keep you updated on these and other coronavirus topics on an on-going basis, typically with weekly updates or when prudent.

Thank you, and stay healthy"

**Adjournment:**

**MOTION: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:32 p.m. The motion was seconded by Selectman Semanie.**

**MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:**

**Chair Sokol:                    yes**

**Silva:                                absent**

**Vice-Chair Semanie:    yes**

Respectfully Submitted,

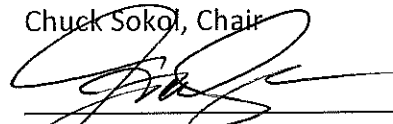
Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date:

Approved:



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Chuck Sokol, Chair



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Selectman Joanne Semanie

**Documents:**

- Agenda September 29, 2020